

NWS Radar Blockage Studies

Portland, Maine

Wilmington, North Carolina

Louisville, Kentucky



Customer / Line Office: National Weather Service

Project Award: \$152,000 per site

Award Date: Portland, Maine— May 2, 2016

Wilmington, North Carolina—May 2, 2016

Louisville, Kentucky— September 15, 2016

Estimated Completion Date:

Portland, Maine— June 15, 2017

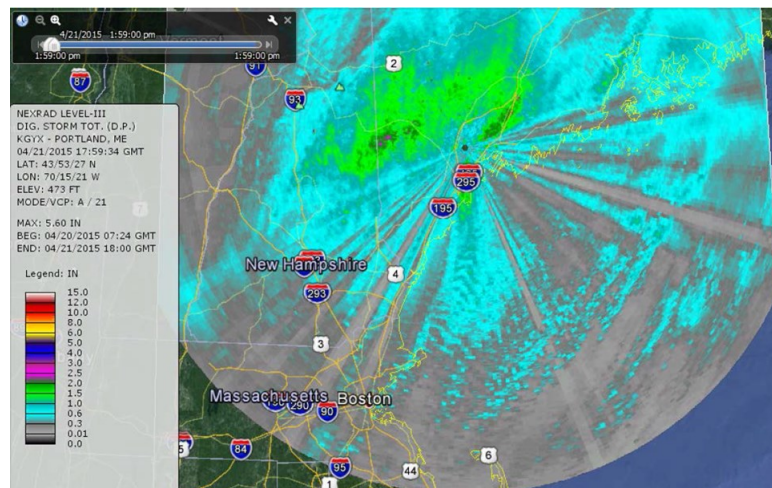
Wilmington, North Carolina— March 15, 2017

Louisville, Kentucky— September 15, 2017

Contractor: EBL Engineers

PPMD Project Manager: John Battle, Architect, PM/PMP, COR

PPMD Project Scope: For all three locations, the A/E team will review an area within 1,200 feet of the radar to document potential issues and work with their arborists to identify local flora and estimated existing heights, species and projected future growth. They then will conduct an aerial survey of the area to photograph the canopies of the trees and use those photos to model the trees. That information along with the data collected through observation can be used to identify current obstructions and predict potential future issues. This data will then be used to help determine recommendations for the most effective solution to eliminate, or minimize radar blockages.



Background: The National Weather Service (NWS) is experiencing some radar blockage at the subject sites. The trees surrounding the radar have grown sufficiently to start to block radar line of sight coverage. An A/E firm has been tasked with reviewing the sites, along with their arborists and civil engineers, to determine options and estimated cost for the NWS to mitigate the current blockages and prevent future issues. The surrounding areas are being surveyed, and documented through aerial photography, and the trees are being sized and evaluated for future growth rates related to understand near- and far-term block issues. documented to project future growth.

The same A/E team is working on these three sites. According to the NWS Facilities staff, there are more locations with similar issues.

Current Status:

Portland, Maine – The draft survey report was submitted for Government review and comment on October 5, 2016.

Wilmington, North Carolina - The draft survey report was submitted for Government review and comment on October 5, 2016.

Louisville, Kentucky – The team is working to finalize the base map for the location. They are working with Fort Bragg (where the radar is located) to coordinate GIS information and plan site access.

Project Team:

- Will Freeman, NWS POC
- John Battle, PPMD PM/COR
- Anthony Kleponis, EBL Engineers



NWS Radar in Wilmington, NC